

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) An endodontic instrument for removing material from a wall of a channel, the instrument comprising a flexible member having a longitudinal axis, the member being bendable along the axis and deformable in a direction perpendicular to the axis to conform to a channel having a non-uniform width.

41. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 40, wherein the flexible member is a shape memory member.

42. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 40, wherein the member further comprises a plurality of radially disposed elements, a cutting edge being disposed on the distal ends of the radially disposed elements.

43. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 40, further comprising a cutting edge on at least a portion of an exterior surface of the member.

44. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 40, further comprising on at least a portion of an exterior surface of the member at least one selected from a group consisting of an abrasive surface, a roughened surface, small teeth, and a cutting edge.

45. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 44, wherein the member comprises a wall having an open lattice structure surrounding a hollow interior portion of the instrument.

46. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 44, wherein the member has a hollow interior extending along the longitudinal axis through which fluid can flow.

47. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 44, wherein fluid can flow into the channel via a space between the wall of the channel and an outer surface of the endodontic instrument.

48. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 44, wherein the member comprises at least one longitudinal element connected to a plurality of circumferential elements.

49. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 48, wherein the circumferential elements are straight elements.

50. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 48, wherein the longitudinal element is one selected from a group consisting of a straight element and a curved element, and wherein the circumferential elements are selected from a group consisting of straight elements and curved elements.

51. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 44, wherein the instrument is made from one selected from a group consisting of a superelastic material, a material having shape memory properties, and a material treated to give the material shape memory properties.

52. (Previously Presented) The endodontic instrument of claim 44, wherein the instrument is made from a nickel titanium alloy.

53.-75. (Cancelled)